

18076839

Chemical Hazards in the Garage and Home Workshop

Product	Possible Hazards	Disposal Suggestions	Precautions and Substitutes
Aerosols	When sprayed, contents are broken into particles small enough to be inhaled. Cans may explode or burn.	Put only empty cans in trash. Do not burn. Do not place in trash compactor.	Store in cool place. Propellant may be flammable. Instead: use non-aerosol products.
Asphalt roofing compound	Eye irritant. Fumes moderately toxic. <i>Toxicity 3*</i>	Use up according to label instructions or give away.	Do not use indoors. No substitutes.
Auto: antifreeze	Very poisonous. Has sweet taste — attractive to small children & pets. <i>Toxicity 3-4*</i>	Amounts of less than 1 gallon pour down sink with plenty of water. Do not do this if you have a septic tank. Put in a secure container & take to a garage or service station.	Clean up any leaks or spills carefully. No substitutes.
Auto: batteries	Contain strong acid. Very corrosive. Danger to eyes & skin.	Recycle.	Trade in old batteries. No substitutes.
Auto: degreasers	Corrosive. Poisonous. Eye & skin irritant. <i>Toxicity 2-4*</i>	Use up according to label instructions or give away.	Instead: choose strong detergent type over solvent type. <i>ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY</i>
Auto: motor oil & transmission fluid	Poisonous. May be contaminated with lead and other toxic substances. Skin & eye irritant.	Recycle.	No substitutes.
Auto: waxes & polishes	Fumes irritating to eyes. Harmful if swallowed Eye & skin irritant.	Use up according to label instructions or give away.	Use outside. No substitutes.
Lacquer & lacquer thinner	Extremely flammable. Very poisonous. <i>Toxicity 4*</i>	Use up according to label instructions or save for hazardous waste collection day.	Ventilate area very well. Do not use in room with pilot light, open flame, electric motors, spark-generating equipment, etc. DO NOT SMOKE WHILE USING. No substitutes.
Paint strippers, thinners, & other solvents	Many are flammable. Eye & skin irritant. Moderately to very poisonous. <i>Toxicity 3-4*</i>	Let settle, pour off cleaner for re-use. Pour sludge into container & seal, or wrap well in newspaper & throw in trash. Use up according to label instructions or save for hazardous waste collection day.	Avoid aerosols. Buy only as much as you need. Ventilate area well. Do not use near open flame. Instead of paint stripper: sand or use heat gun. Use water-based clean-up products as much as possible.

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Paints (oil-based) & varnishes	Flammable. Eye & skin irritant. Use in small, closed area may cause unconsciousness.	Use up according to label instructions or save for hazardous waste collection day.	Ventilate area well. Do not use near open flame. May take weeks for fumes to go away Instead: use water-based paints if possible.
Insecticides,* herbicides, fungicides, slugbait, rodent poison, wood preservatives	All are dangerous to some degree. Can cause central nervous system damage, kidney & liver damage, birth defects, internal bleeding, eye injury. Some are readily absorbed through the skin. <i>Toxicity 3-6*</i>	Use up carefully, following label instructions. Save for hazardous waste collection day.	Do not buy more than you need. Instead: try hand-picking, mechanical cultivation, natural predators. Practice good sanitation. Choose hardy varieties. Use insect lures & traps. As a last resort, use least toxic suitable pesticides.

** The following pesticides were previously sold for use by homeowners and the general public but have since been banned or are no longer recommended for use by homeowners.

Calcium Arsenate, Copper Arsenate, Arsenate, Creosote, Pentachlorophenol (PCP), Chlordane, DDT, Silvex, 2-4-5 T, Sodium Arsenite, Heptachlor, Aldrin, Dieldrin.

These pesticides should be carefully stored and saved for a hazardous waste collection day. Here is one way to safely store them. Get a plastic container with a lid (a 5-gallon plastic bucket, for example). Fill halfway with kitty litter. Keep the substance **IN ITS ORIGINAL BOTTLE OR BOX** and put it in the plastic container. Fill to the top with kitty litter and replace the lid. Mark the container clearly and store it away from children, pets, etc. It is a good idea to store the container on a shelf rather than a concrete or soil floor to reduce corrosion.

Format courtesy of Citizens for a Better Environment

*General Toxicity Rating

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Almost Non-Toxic	Slightly Toxic	Moderately Toxic	Very Toxic	Extremely Toxic	Super Toxic
Lethal Dose for 150 lb. Adult	More than 1 Quart	1 Pint to 1 Quart	1 Ounce to 1 Pint	1 Teaspoon to 1 Ounce	7 Drops to 1 Teaspoon	Less Than 7 Drops

For more information:

Hazardous Waste Research and Information Center 1-217-333-8940
Illinois Poison Control Center 1-800-252-2022
Illinois Animal Poison Information Center 1-217-333-3611

For information about recycling motor oil in Champaign County:
Community Recycling Center 1-217-351-4495

From Gosselin et al., 1984

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